



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FEMA RELEASES DIGITAL FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP INFORMATION TO PUBLIC

Information available through Westminster City website

Westminster, MD – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) information for the City of Westminster. The new, updated maps are based on the most technically advanced scientific analysis ever performed for Flood Insurance Rates. By offering more accurate flood-risk zones, the digital maps allow residents and business owners to make more informed decisions about protecting their property.

The new maps -- also known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) -- reflect current flood risks, replacing maps that are up to 10 years old. Property owners throughout the City will have up-to-date, reliable, Internet-accessible information about flood risk, on a property-by-property basis.

The maps are still preliminary. Now through October 7, 2010, there will be a public comment period giving citizens the opportunity to review the technical and/or scientific data and if necessary, to file an appeal regarding their individual property or the accuracy of the mapping process.

Once the appeals are reviewed and any needed map changes are incorporated, FEMA will issue a Letter of Final Determination. Six months later, an ordinance approving the new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map will be presented for adoption. The maps then become effective, as will any new flood insurance requirements.

Please visit www.westminstermd.gov to see the FIRM map for the City of Westminster. Technical questions about the National Flood Insurance Program and its rules and regulations can be addressed by the FEMA Map Assistance Center at 1-877-336-2627 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. The Map Assistance Call Center can answer questions about criteria for Letter of Map Change, physical map revisions, appeals, protests, compliance issues, Preliminary Flood Insurance Studies, processing fees, technical data requests and Letters of Determination in Review.

For more information, please contact the Planning Department at 410-848-9000.

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*The City of Westminster Planning, Zoning & Development Department is located at 56 West Main Street.
For more information, call 410-848-9000 or visit www.westminstermd.gov.*